

REMARKS

Applicant submits herewith new amendments to the claims in an effort to obtain allowable subject matter.

It is noted that claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Minnerop et al.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over SMS Demag Newsletter.

Claims 1-6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Wilson.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilson in view of the patent to Aratani et al.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilson in view of the patent to Uppaluri.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the methods disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, applicant has reviewed all of the references cited by the Examiner. Although Minnerop et al. might disclose pretesting roll sets, and Wilson and the SMS Demag Newsletter disclose that it is known to make roll stands driveable into and out of a rolling line, it is submitted that these references do not disclose the invention now recited in amended claim 1. Although the references teach that a machine unit is preassembled before insertion into a production line, there is no disclosure of preassembling the hydraulic, electrical and mechanical modules as well. In particular, there is no disclosure of preassembling the machine unit as a completely functional modular unit in which the associated drive elements, control elements, fastening elements, as well as pipes, cables, and other pieces of equipment necessary for operation are integrated.

Furthermore, the references do not disclose subjecting the preassembled installation to a preliminary test run on site before it is inserted into the production line, as in the presently claimed invention. Without disclosing such a preliminary testing step the references have no need for a fully functional unit prior to insertion into the production line. The present invention thus provides the benefit of an early detection

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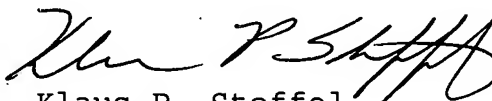
of problems with any components before they are fully inserted into the production line. This in turn results in reduced down time for the production line due to installation and repair.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-6, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejections of claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 22, 2010